

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 PM-10
PA-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01
SCT-02 /065 W
-----225072 100459Z /10

R 091315Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9940
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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E.O.12356:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, PLO, LE

SUBJ: LEBANON CAMPS WAR: IRANIAN CEASEFIRE STILLBORN

1. WITH FURTHER AMAL-PALESTINIAN FIGHTING REPORTED DECEMBER 9 AT BURJ AL-BARAJNAH CAMP IN BEIRUT AND AT MAGHDUSHAH SOUTHEAST OF SIDON, THE IRANIAN CEASEFIRE PLAN AGAIN HAS FAILED TO TAKE HOLD. IN DAMASCUS DECEMBER 8, AMAL LEADER NABIH BARRI ANNOUNCED HIS ACCEPTANCE OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE IRANIAN PLAN, AGREEING TO PERMIT HIZBALLAH ELEMENTS TO TAKE OVER SITES AT MAGHDUSHAH FOLLOWING PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL TO BEGIN AT SIX A.M. LOCAL DECEMBER 9. SPOKESMEN FOR THE PRO-SYRIAN PALESTINIAN NATIONAL SALVATION ALSO AGREED.
2. BARRI, HOWEVER, WARNED THAT IF THE PALESTINIANS FAIL THIS TIME TO CARRY OUT THE AGREEMENT, AMAL WOULD ABROGATE ITS ADHERENCE TO ALL PREVIOUS CONDITIONS. BARRI ALSO

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BLASTED THE TUNIS MEETING OF ARAB RULERS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH MET DECEMBER 8 TO DISCUSS THE CAMPS WAR. BARRI CALLED THE MEETING "ILLEGAL" BECAUSE IT WAS CONVOKED AGAINST THE WISHES OF LEBANON. (AMAL VICE-PRESIDENT AKEF HAIDAR WARNED THE ARAB MINISTERS AGAINST ADOPTING ANY MEASURES REGARDING THE PALESTINIANS UNLESS THEY WERE READY

TO APPLY THEM IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.)

3. THOUGH THE IRANIAN CEASEFIRE HAS PROVEN INEFFECTIVE
LIKE ITS SYRIAN-SPONSORED PREDECESSORS, ONE NEW WRINKLE IN
IT IS NOTEWORTHY: AMAL AGREEMENT TO HIZBALLAH
PARTICIPATION IN FORCES THAT TAKE OVER FROM LOCATIONS LEFT
BY PALESTINIANS AS THEY WITHDRAW BACK INTO CAMPS. AMAL

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APPARENTLY AGREED TO THIS IN VIEW OF THE ON-GROUND
SITUATION AT MAGHDUSHAH. PRO-AMAL DAILY AL-HAQIQA
DECEMBER 9 REPORTED THAT SUCH HIZBALLAH PARTICIPATION
WOULD ONLY BE TEMPORARY AND NOT LAST LONGER THAN 5 DAYS,
UNTIL THE FIRST STAGE OF THE CEASEFIRE HAD TAKEN HOLD.

4. AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO HAS JUST FLED MAGHDUSHAH TOLD
US THAT FIGHTING IN THE VILLAGE IS CREATING HEAVY DAMAGE.
LOSS IN LIVES AND PROPERTY AMONG MAINLY CHRISTIAN
VILLAGERS HAS BEEN SERIOUS, DESPITE EARLY PLEDGES FROM
COMBATANTS TO AVOID CIVILIAN AREAS. THERE IS MUCH LOOTING
AND PILLAGING. MAJORITY OF VILLAGE POPULACE HAVE NOW FLED
BUT OLD PEOPLE ESPECIALLY REMAIN, SOME FALLING VICTIM TO
THE BATTLE. MCNAMARA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, CEASEFIRE, COMBAT, PALESTINIANS, REPORT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06735
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D860938-0527
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761255/aaaabvov.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON CAMPS WAR: IRANIAN CEASEFIRE STILLBORN
TAGS: KPAL, PGOV, MOPS, LE, PLO
To: STATE DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006